

7. (Amended) An expression construct comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcriptional promoter;

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A a RRN3 polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in aqueous solution containing 4-6x SSC at 65-68° C, or 42° C in 50% formamide, to a polynucleotide encoding a Rrn3 polypeptide or the full length complement of the polynucleotide, wherein the Rrn3 polypeptide, which Rrn3 polypeptide stimulates ribosomal RNA transcription, comprises the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof; and

a transcriptional terminator.

Please add the following claims:

39. (New) An isolated and purified nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

(a) nucleic acids which hybridize under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in aqueous solution containing 4-6x SSC at 65-68° C, or 42° C in 50% formamide, to the complement of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encode a protein that stimulates ribosomal RNA (rRNA) transcription;

A (b) nucleic acids which encode the rRNA transcription-stimulating proteins encoded by the nucleic acids of (a);

(c) full length complements of the nucleic acids of (a) or (b); and

(d) nucleic acids which hybridize, under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in aqueous solution containing 4-6x SSC at 65-68° C, or 42° C in 50% formamide, to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 39, wherein the isolated and purified nucleic acid is human.